

NOW PREPARING FOR PUBLICATION.
THE CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY
FOR 1877.

This Work, the only one of the kind in
China or Japan, is now in the
FIFTEENTH YEAR.

of its existence and will be published as soon
as practicable after the close of the current
year.

It has been compiled from the most
AUTHENTIC SOURCES, and no pains have been
spared to render it THOROUGHLY RELIABLE
both as a Directory and a Work of Reference
on Commercial Matters.

The Directory will be published in two
volumes—One price at \$3; or with the Lists of
Residents, Port Directories, Maps, and Code
of Scales, at \$3.

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early to the Publisher, Daily Press Office, or
to the following Agents:

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We are requested to state that the steam tug
Fame will leave Nagasaki this afternoon
at 1:30 p.m. and will not make more than
one day's run and expect to be back.

The Publisher of the Daily Press begs to
acknowledge, with thanks, the anonymous
donation, the receipt of ten dollars towards
the subscription proposed to be raised for the
widow and children of General Lee.

Further subscriptions will be thank-
fully received and duly acknowledged.

NOTICE.

A. S. WATSON AND CO.,
FAMILY AND DISPENSING
CHEMISTS.

By Appointment to His Excellency the Governor
and his Royal Highness the Duke of EDINBURGH.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRUGGISTS,
PERFUMERS.

PATENT MEDICINE VENDORS;
DRUGGISTS' SUNDAYMEN,

And
AERATED WATER MAKERS.

SHIPS MEDICINE CHESTS REFITTED.
PASSENGER SHIPS SUPPLIED.

NOTICE.—To avoid delay in the execution of
Orders, it is particularly requested that all
business communications be addressed to the
Firm, A. S. Watson and Co., or
327 HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

NEW YORK.—Messrs. S. M. Peabody & Co.
32 Park Row.

HONGKONG, December 23rd, 1876.

This may which occurred on the 15th instant
between the soldiers of two regiments, et
cetera, at Canton affords an insight into the
way of conducting such matters in China by
its officials. It seems that a quarrel arose
between the soldiers belonging to the Sui-
ting regiment and those of the Viceroy's
garrison. From words they were not long in
proceeding to use their weapons, and a regular
engagement took place, which the commanders
were powerless to stop until one soldier had
been killed by a shot and several were severely
wounded. The Viceroy is reported to have
been much incensed at this disgraceful
affair, and sternly ordered the officers
in command to produce the originators
of the riot, and await punishment themselves,
for being incompetent to preserve discipline
in the ranks. But this is a common failing
with Chinese officers. They know nothing
about discipline, and allow all sorts of irregularities
among the rank and file, who are frequently
mutinous and disorderly. The latter
are usually drawn from the roughest part
of the population, and with the exception of a
few picked scamps, drilled by European
instructors, they are a dirty and utterly un-
disciplined mob of men, very little, if any,
better fitted to meet an enemy than a troop
taken promiscuously from the streets,
armed, and marched straight into the field.
Many of them know nothing about the
new weapons put into their hands, and
they soon allow them to spoil through
the rust and dirt which accumulate on them.
The officers being almost equally ignorant
of the art of war with the "braves" they are
subjected to bad, and quite as careless, of
appearances, it follows that the bulk of the
Chinese army is a miserable mass of incon-
sequence. It will take a long time, at the
present rate of procedure, to render all the
regiments tolerably efficient. In fact this
will be impossible so long as they are
governed by a set of prejudiced and conceited
men who know nothing of their profession,
and are for the most part unwilling and too
proud to learn.

This difficulty in the East of Europe has
caused a good many to set their
sights to the West, and others to
work to consider the best means of leaving
the road to India. Amongst others Sir
John Lubbock has been giving attention to
this view on the subject. He gives it as his
opinion that it would be advisable, in the
interests of England, "to induce Turkey" to
allow her to purchase the western part
of Asia Minor, that would secure the route
to India. He does not think that this would
entail any great burden upon England, and
at the same time is the best thing that can
be done to uphold that rich, populous, and
once happy country. In the first place,
however, the member for Midlothian does not
mention what he means by the "western part
of Asia Minor." Does he mean the whole
of the provinces of Anatolia, or a portion
of it? It is most improbable that the Porte
would cede an inch of this portion of its ter-
ritory willingly, and would never, under any
circumstances, regard its occupation by an
other Power with equanimity. It might
claim territory with greater facility, and would
not much relish even parting with Cyprus,
but the acquisition of Asia Minor is out
of the question, unless the Turks were reduced
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THE 100 TON GUN

The Standard, remarking upon the 100-ton gun at La Spezia, observes that it is intended to visit a foreign shore in order to observe what armament the powers of the mightiest gun yet manufactured. By its performances proof enough is given that we cannot reckon even the infidels to be invulnerable, though she might offer a stout resistance to the projectiles of the 100-ton gun. The gun is to be built on a 12-inch base. Of what metal is it to be built? on with 12 inches of armor, like the Thunderer, or 12 inches like the Devastation? What becomes of our hitherto trusted ironclads, with armor of lesser thickness? The 100-ton gun may be called exceptional. But how long will it remain so? There are two bright spots, however, in the otherwise gloomy picture. In the first place, the gun is to be built under the British Government, at the direction of an English firm. In the second place, Woolwich is prepared to produce a gun which shall thoroughly equal the chief desire of Elswick. It does not rest with the British Government to say whether or not such guns shall be made. They may or may not be made at Woolwich for our own fleet; but they will be made for the British fleet. The British Government has the means of foreign nations. The British Government has the power to shrink from the enormous cost. But if the nation demands that the work must be done, and true economy suggests that our ships and guns should be constructed not merely according to an existing scale, but as far as possible in advance of it, according to the prospects which already present themselves, the British Government will do so.

JOHN BILLINGS says: "To lie about a man never hurts him, but to tell the truth about him sometimes does. Gossips that is travelling round loose is a lie; or will be by the time it has changed hands once more. I wrote five years ago that I was in a business school. There is lots of people who, if they should hear this, would know much less about anything for that day."

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE

FRIDAY, 23rd December.
In Bengal no business has been reported to-day. On New Mala settlements at \$500 with allowance of fifty-eight taels.

EXPORT CARGO.
Per British boat *Elizabeth*, for London: 9,323 lbs. Sugar, 3,050 cwt. Canna, 200 hats, 230 packages Canes, 100 boxes Galants, 50 bags Silk Waste, and 1 case Sundries.

EXCHANGE.
On LONDON.—Bank Bills to Shanghai, £4/11.
Bank Bills at 30 days' sight, £4/11.
Bank Bills at 6 months' sight, £4/11.
Credits, £6 months', sight, £4/2.
Documentary Bills, at 6 months' sight, £4/2.
On BOMBAY.—Bank, sight, £25.
On CALCUTTA.—Bank, sight, £25.
On SHANGHAI.—Bank, sight, £22.
Private, 30 days' sight, £7.
SHAKES.
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Shares—21
per cent premium.
Union Insurance Society of Canton—\$610 per share.
China Traders' Insurance Company's Share—\$1,700 per share.
Hongkong Fire Insurance Company's Share—\$210 per share.
China Fire Insurance Company's Share—\$164 per share.
Hongkong Gas Company's Shares—\$75 per share.
Hongkong Hotel Company's Shares—\$50 per share.
Chinese Imperial Loan—£100. Es. £1.
SALES OF DECEMBER 22ND, AS REPORTED BY
CHINA EXCHANGES.
Fangus—20 bags, at \$2350, by Foot Hong Wo to travelling trader.
Vermicelli—20 bags, at \$950, by Chum Chong to travelling trader.
Dried Lily Flowers—10 bags, at \$1200, by Chum Chong to travelling trader.
Red Molon Seeds—10 bags, at \$14,600, by Chum Chong to travelling trader.
Ginseng—20 bags, at \$11,80.
Kwonee Tai Chong to travelling trader.
White Was—2 pieces, at \$550, by Kwong San Tai to travelling trader.
Black Pepper—9 bags, at \$910, by Sun Chong to travelling trader.
Mushrooms—5 cases, at \$550, by Yee Kee to travelling trader.

HONGKONG TEMPERATURE,
WON YEE'S FALCON & CO'S BUREAU.
December 22nd.

Barometer—74.20.
Thermometer—60.00.
Hygrometer—64.00.
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Extracts.

LITERARY TREASURE TROVE.

THE RETURN FROM THE SILENT LAND.
Ring out glad hearts! a welcome from every turreted bight,
At the sight of your vessels which dot the morning sky.
They have told us much we knew not, that silent
They have come from the borders of the wondrous
Silent Land!

When the white bear and the musk'd tread their solitary
way—
Where the white bear and the musk'd tread their solitary
way—
Where the sound of human voices never thrills the ice
and snow—
There they sleep, these English ships, whom the world
is proud to know!

Sudden death they left behind them in the dear old
English home—
Yet their hearts were warm'd with ardour when they
plough'd the ocean foam;

And the odor of the sweet flow'r filled each stalwart
In their grand, on golden mountains, and the gleaming
ice-ford's crest.

Mis the earth of mighty icebergs and the swirl of Arctic
seas?

One would shudder the sweet fates that he bore him
And the music of the ocean as it rose with solace swell,

What fit but the echo of the well-remember'd bell?

One North and only Northward—were their fate and

One who could this page of Trial with dry eyes? And

who forgot?

The dears have found their ending in the region white
with snow—

In the sea of Ancient Ice, and where the death-

Gullies are! We give you welcome, Haven, credit,
and酬勞 (rewards).

To all ages shall your noble names go
down!—The dealer had bought them for
their hunting, and for fifteen months they were
remained upon his stall at Dijon. They at
last fell into the hands of a worthy purveyor,
and the discovery has resulted in a great
literary event. All the difficulties in the old
editions are now cleared up, and the explanation
of their origin easily accounted for.

They seem to have arisen chiefly from the
copyist carelessly skipping a line here and
there in making his transcript. Proper
names are not given in full where pre-
viously there had been initials or abbreviations,
and thus much important historical
information is gained; and, lastly, two ro-
lumes of letters never before published are
given to the world. If they possess the same
charm as the first letters of Madame de Scoville, one of the most fascinat-
ing volumes of French literature, the Dijon
acquisition will indeed prove "treasure
trove."

Paul's assurance that those who refrain do
better—surely those fortunate beings who
have escaped the terrors of single blessed-
ness (by grace of their own prudence),

should hasten to baffle tedium and sym-
pathy upon the less lucid portion of the race
rather than ridicule. The old maid has become
the legitimate object of the most wilful
sarcasm in literature, equally with the
miser and the mother-in-law. She is repre-
sented as always angling for a husband, as

an sour-tempered and possessed of a venomous
spite against younger and more attractive
members of her sex; as aping the air and
attire of giddy girlhood. She is always
lank and tall and awkward, with cork-
drawn ears and a Roman nose, and a

hundred devices to conceal the ravages
of the traitor Time. There is a small
lump, however, that thinks she does not to
the slight estimation in which the spinster is
held for the thousand-and-one foolish me-
nages that occur in our midst. Nobody
wants to be a laughing stock; and there is
many a silly woman who, indoctrinated with

the popular idea of an old maid, feels that her
only salvation lies in avoiding such a fate, that
her only hope of consideration and dignity is
in matrimony, and acts accordingly. We do
not pretend to say that the curvature of the
old maid is not justified in some instances;

but why should we exact an exception into a
rule, or judge a class by an individual? A
prime style of dress, insidiousness in the use of
language, reference to coarse allusions, we
call'd "old maidish," as if that were enough
to frighten one into a vulgar hovel, while
even the priciest and choicest housekeepers
earn the compliment of having been "cut
out for an old maid." Perhaps the old maid
is the least lonely person in all the world.

For more are the children of the desolate
than of the married wife, who has her own
circle of interest, we know, her own narrow
sphere, while all humanity is the circle
of the desolate old maid.—*Victor's World.*

NAPOLEON'S MANNERS.
Macaulay, in comparing Napoleon to
Cesar, Cesay, very rightly says that was
greatly his superior in one point, he was
a perfect gentleman. "Valleyard, with ex-
pressed nearly the same thing when he said
'What a pity that such a great man should
have been so badly brought up!'" If we
judge not from the reports of his enemies, but
from the disclosures of his most faithful and
devoted servitors, Napoleon treated those
who were admitted into his intimacy with a
familiarity that no man who had any self-
respect would have tolerated for a minute.
Menoval, his former secretary, represents blue
skulls pulling the ears of his interlocutors a some-
times hard enough to make the blood flow;
giving them a slap on the neck, at times
even sitting on their knees. These acts of
grossness were marks of special kindness
with him, and men of the highest rank were
proud of such tokens of favour. Such habits
were calculated to produce stiffness in his
manners with strangers. He was too familiar
when he wished to please, and too stiffly de-
stinct when he wished to command respect.
As to his body, the fatigues of war had
strengthened his iron constitution, and given
him a stoutheart, bordering on emboldment.
Napoleon acknowledged that he never was
better than during this hard campaign, in
which he often rode thirty leagues a day over
the snow. The agitations of war may
be said to have become needful to his
temperament, a necessity for his health,
and in some sort the indispensable element
of that intense activity which was the
predominant characteristic of his nature.
He literally lived on what would have killed
others. War gave him both sleep and appetite.
A great deal of the Corsican still
remained to him. He had passed through
the refined civilization, the kind philosophical
spirit of the eighteenth century, appropri-
ated himself with a wonderful facility to
imitation all that could be of service to
him. He had turned to account its ideas
adopted its forms and language, but in
this primitive man had been but little im-
pacted. He had retained even certain super-
titions of his countrymen, which were like
the wings of his soul. He whose only re-
ligion was a faint, more often affected
than real, in his star, was sometimes seen
says Menoval suddenly to make an involun-
tary sign of the cross on the mucronous
and greatest danger of some grave event.
And the part secretary did, in order to give
a political turn to the fact, that this
penitent might be interpreted by the express
one, Almighty God! Under his apparent
good nature, too, and his false gracefulness
of manner, when he wished to appear kind
and the old, harmless and inscrutable
and mistrust of the islander always on his
guard against his enemies. It was noticed
that during the sixteen days that the two
emperors spent together, in the midst of
the profoundest cordial friendship, Alex-
ander took his meals every day with Napoleon,
but Napoleon never once broke bread
with Alexander.—*Leisure's History of Napo-*

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THE OLD MAID.
If the fact of being an old maid is such an unfortunate circumstance as many seem to suppose, one would naturally think the poor creature in the pillory of vice deserved, for every low-minded passer to pelt with hard words and contempt. If it is such an enviable thing, so martyr-wisely, and we believe it is, in spite of St.

Paul's assurance that those who refrain do better—surely those fortunate beings who have escaped the terrors of single blessedness (by grace of their own prudence),

should hasten to baffle tedium and sympathy upon the less lucid portion of the race rather than ridicule. The old maid has become the legitimate object of the most wilful sarcasm in literature, equally with the miser and the mother-in-law. She is represented as always angling for a husband, as

a sour-tempered and possessed of a venomous spite against younger and more attractive members of her sex; as aping the air and attire of giddy girlhood. She is always lank and tall and awkward, with cork-drawn ears and a Roman nose, and a

hundred devices to conceal the ravages of the traitor Time. There is a small lump, however, that thinks she does not to the slight estimation in which the spinster is held for the thousand-and-one foolish me- nages that occur in our midst. Nobody wants to be a laughing stock; and there is many a silly woman who, indoctrinated with

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For more are the children of the desolate than of the married wife, who has her own circle of interest, we know, her own narrow sphere, while all humanity is the circle of the desolate old maid.—*Victor's World.*

THE GRAND VIZIER.
The Grand Vizier's court opened on Friday, Saturday, Monday, and Wednesday. It does not rise until night comes, or the causes are ended. Sundays and Tuesdays are set apart for the Sultan's divan. Here too, the Vizier presides, but right over his head is a semi-circular gallery, about half the size of a horse-head, and barred very closely with gilt bars. In this case of Dionysius the Sultan sits, or may sit, and hear every cause tried. A particular dress is required of all who attend this divan. When the Sultan calls a general council of all his great officers it is known as "the divan of feet," because all stand during the consultations. When the assessors have given sentence, the Vizier, if he approves, confirms it with the word "ak" (certain). If he does not agree with the sentence he hears the cause again. The assessors, however, maintain most earnestly their own opinion, for if a judge has been once found guilty of injustice he cannot keep his place or find another. When the Vizier has any cause tried, he pleads for them at once? At the same time, the Vizier, but not necessarily to the Sultan, receives a telegram from a lady received from her son-in-law a telegram which astonished her note a little. It stated that his wife and presented him with a "box box."—*Chambers's Journal.*

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